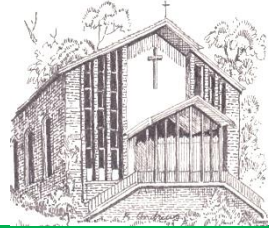




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



20 / 21 JULY 2019
16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR C
MARTHA AND MARY

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Welcoming God

Two stories about hospitality this week. But note well, they are about hospitality to God. The first Reading says that Abraham was sitting outside on a hot day. He looked up to find three strangers standing nearby on the path, apparently nourishing their curiosity about the tent and its occupants. It is not clear that Abraham knew who they were, but for our part we are told that they were God appearing to Abraham.

How does Abraham react to this presence of God?

He bows deeply. He flies into action. He begs the men to relax from their journey and accept comfort, nourishment and rest. Beautiful hospitality in this Eastern part of the world. Abraham quickly rushes into his great tent, issuing headlong, hasty commands to Sarah, his wife. "Quick, quick, three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls. I will get the best steer and command the servants to prepare it." He dashes outside to get curds and milk and after a long time, sets the whole meal before the men.

Quite a scene. Quite welcoming.

As the dinner progresses, Sarah is standing behind the tent flap listening. All at once the men make a sudden, astonishing statement to Abraham. Next year Sarah will bear a son by Abraham.

Sarah actually laughs out loud as she hears this absurdity about her dried-up body, nearly 89 years old. She is supposed to issue forth a tender baby.

Even so, as you may know, the amazing thing does indeed take place, after a time, and thank God that Abraham listened to these men, the presence of God.

Second story: in the Gospel, Jesus enters the house of his friends Mary and Martha, and is warmly welcomed. As he sits down, Mary organizes herself at his feet and focuses her clear wide eyes upon him. Who is preparing the dinner? Mary's sister Martha bustles about doing just that.

Unfair!

Martha grows tired and exasperated, of course, and finally comes over to demand that Jesus tell Mary to stop lounging and help out a little.

Surprisingly, Jesus says, no. "Mary has chosen the better part," he explains.

Maybe Martha should have said, "We are not having any food tonight, we are just going to sit and stare at you."

In truth, Martha's trouble was not that she was scrambling about, but that as she did ↗ ↘



↯↯ so, she forgot about Jesus. She was not making him welcome; she was constructing a meal. He even tells her that she was anxious and worried about many things, not the one thing necessary.

What is the one thing necessary?

Relation to Christ. Real hospitality means a two-way relationship in which host and guest both open to each other and become present to one another in various ways. Yes, hosts do work on the details, and work hard. But they always remember the visitor while they prepare. Excellent hosts manage somehow to get everything ready but also to truly listen and converse with the one who has come.



That is how we are supposed to act every day.

We are to find God in all things, in all the people we know and/or help, and no matter how busy we might be, to relate to them because God is within them, deep in their souls. Touch them. Hear them. Prepare meals for their presence without forgetting about them. We will be giving hospitality to God himself.

Abraham gave it. Mary gave it. Martha forgot like you and I do, but she learned. Let's learn it too.

We know from John's gospel that Martha and Mary were friends of Jesus, and that he was frequently in their home. Luke tells us nothing of this; perhaps it was not in the material available to him. However, he immortalises this incident that took place during one of Jesus' visits, because he sees it as having a lesson for us all. Busy preparing special dishes for their guest, Martha feels left out. Jesus tells her not to go to so much trouble: one dish will be plenty. He then goes beyond this homely advice to remind Martha and those present that the 'one thing necessary' in life is finding the truth he is bringing them. Mary does not need to be reminded of this; she shows herself to be a true 'disciple'.

In the gospel accounts, 'disciples' are mentioned hundreds of times. For many centuries, however, the idea of 'discipleship' has had little place in our Christian awareness. Today, we are being told that our lives will be enriched, if we see ourselves as disciples of the Lord. 'Disciples' are learners. All inspiring leaders gather around them a group who want to share in their vision. Those who followed Jesus and were inspired by his message were called 'disciples'; even those who had not known Jesus during his earthly life called themselves his 'disciples' – as we know from the Acts of the Apostles. By including this incident in his gospel, Luke is inviting us to become disciples of the Lord by identifying with Mary as she sat at his feet – finding the truth that gives meaning to our lives.

If we develop the outlook of disciples it will become second nature to us to recognise that we are never alone in our moments of faith awareness and prayer – 'Come to me', the Lord tells us, 'I am with you always'. He encourages us as we seek the way, to share our lives with him with honesty and courage, to look honestly, in his presence, at the quality of our relationships, at the responsibilities life has brought us, at our hopes and ambitions – comparing our outlook with that of the guest who told Martha that one dish was enough. The light and encouragement this attitude of discipleship brings will surprise us. It will make our personal prayer more meaningful. The strength and inspiration we find will make us more aware of the workings of the Holy Spirit.

How do we know the mind of Jesus, what he stands for? The Scriptures should play an important part in our life of discipleship. Listening to the gospel story, we must be prepared to meet the real Jesus and be challenged by the example of his attitudes. Knowing the Scriptures will help us to situate our lives in the great plan of God – spoken of in today's readings. We are the beneficiaries of all that is foreshadowed in the promises made to Abraham. We should learn to share Paul's amazement and gratitude at the generous plan, hidden from all eternity and now revealed in Christ.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

Welcome to those baptised this Sunday: **ARIA HOLLOWAY** and **KAI HOLLOWAY**. Thank you to their parents and families for bringing the children to our Parish for baptism. The next baptisms will be on the weekend of 17/18 August during the weekend Masses. *Contact the Parish Office for details.*



50 YEARS AGO ... HUMANS ON THE MOON

Apollo 11 was the spaceflight that first landed humans on the Moon. Commander Neil Armstrong and lunar module pilot Buzz Aldrin, both American, landed the Apollo Lunar Module Eagle on 20 July 1969, at 20:17 UTC [6:17am Sydney time]. Armstrong became the first person to step onto the lunar surface six hours later on 21 July at 02:56:15 UTC [12:56pm Sydney time]; Aldrin joined him 19 minutes later. They spent about two and a quarter hours together outside the spacecraft, and collected 21.5 kg of lunar material to bring back to Earth. Command module pilot Michael Collins flew the command module Columbia alone in lunar orbit while they were on the Moon's surface. Armstrong and Aldrin spent 21.5 hours on the lunar surface at a site they named Tranquility Base. Can we make more “small steps” towards “one giant leap” towards peace in our world?

**ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK
TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA**

WE HAVE MOVED – TEMPORARILY, THAT IS

The inside of our church is being repainted – not a small job. Work should be finished by Friday, 26 July, so we can be “back home” for our Masses next weekend, 27/28 July. **Weekday liturgies** this week will be in the **Common Room in the Presbytery**. Thanks to all helpers, especially after Sunday morning Mass this weekend. The cost of painting all the walls, ceilings, doors of the church and sacristies is approximately \$30,000.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

“You drew near to anoint the weary feet of the Master, the weary feet of concrete individuals, there where they were to be found, and the Lord was waiting for you, to anoint you anew in your vocation. This is very important. In order to renew ourselves, we must frequently turn back and meet the Lord, revisiting the memories of our first calling. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews says to the Christians: “Remember the first days”. Remember the beauty of that meeting with Jesus who called us, and from that meeting, with the eyes of Jesus, receive the strength to move forward. Never lose your memory of the first call! Remembering the first call is a “sacramental”. The difficulties of apostolic labours can really exhaust us, and we can lose enthusiasm. We can also lose the desire to pray, to meet the Lord. If you find yourself in this position, stop! Turn back and meet the Lord of your first calling. This memory will save you.”

– Pope Francis, 7 May 2019

FOSTERING FUTURES

Every child has the right to a family and a permanent home – every single one. Right now, children across our region are in need. If you would like to find out more about becoming a foster carer with CatholicCare Wollongong, please email CatholicCare on fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or ☎ 0418 783 956.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekend 20/21 July Masses in the McCarthy Centre
SCARF High Tea at 3:00pm

Monday 22 July St Mary Magdalene

Thursday 25 July St James, apostle

Weekend 27/28 July Masses back in the church



PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Missionary and Evangelising? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared a passion for participating in the missionary nature of the Church and desire stronger support, involvement and formation among all the baptised who make up the Church.

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a desire for individuals and groups within and also beyond the Church to find a better welcome and be incorporated more into its life and mission.

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Prayerful and Eucharistic? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared how deeply they treasured the Eucharist and the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church.

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is A Joyful, Hope-Filled and Servant Community? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a yearning for the Church to be a sign of God's kingdom for all people in Australia – to be able to see the Catholic Church in action, and to recognise Jesus.

Find out more at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C

1st Reading Genesis 18:1-10

2nd Reading Colossians 1:24-28

Gospel Luke 10:38-42

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C

1st Reading Genesis 18:20-32

2nd Reading Colossians 2:12-14

Gospel Luke 11:1-13

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Church of St Michael • Thirroul

Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am

Bulli • Sunday 8:30am and 5:30pm

Corrimal • Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9:30am

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Wombarra [Liturgy] Monday 4:30pm

Thirroul Tuesday 5:30pm

Wednesday 9:00am

Thursday 9:00am

Friday 9:30am

Parish of St Michael – Thirroul and Wombarra

Moving forward as a Parish Family + one of the Northern Illawarra Parishes

Patrick Vaughan • *Parish Priest* ❖ Andrew Granc ofm, Geoff Allen, Ken Cafe ofm • *Assisting*

📍 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive

☎ 4268 1910 📠 4268 1976

📮 PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515

📧 thirroul@dow.org.au

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday Friday

9:00am to 3:30pm

Magda Pires

10:00am to 3:00pm **Maureen Franciskovic**

🌐 www.thirroulcatholic.org.au

Parish School of St Michael ☎ 4267 2560